

Message Text

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12/70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 CPR-01

/061 W

----- 031472

R 241322Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7639

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 3 LINE 12

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: COMPOSITION OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

1. CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) IS GIVEN BELOW. ON DECEMBER 11, THE RC SET ITS MEMBERSHIP AT TWENTY POSITIONS. NINETEEN POSITIONS ARE NOW FILLED. ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE TWENTIETH POSITION, IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT IT WILL BE RESERVED FOR THE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERALS STAFF, A POSITION NOW CONCURRENTLY HELD BY THE PRESIDENT.

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MEMBER

CAPACITY

GEN FRANCISCO DA COSTA GOMES PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC AND CHIEF
OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF

ADM JOSE BAPTISTA PINHEIRO PRIME MINISTER
DE AZEVEDO

GEN ANTONIO RAMALHO EANES ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

ADM AUGUSTO SOUTO SILVA CRUZ NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF

GEN JOSE ALBERTO MORAIS AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
DA SILVA

BG VASCO CORREIA LOURENCO LISBON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER

BG ANTONIO ELISIO CAPELO NORTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER
PIRES VELOSO

BG MANUEL RIBEIRO FRANCO CENTRAL MILITARY REGION COMMANDER
CHARAIS

BG PEDRO JULIO DE PEZARAT SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION
CORREIA COMMANDER

MAJ ERNESTO AUGUSTO MELO ARMY REP (FOREIGN MINISTER)
ANTUNES

MAJ VITOR MANUEL RODRIGUES ARMY REP (EDUCATION MINISTER)
ALVES

CPT RODRIGO MANUEL LOPES DE ARMY REP (RC SPOKESMAN, SUPERVISES
SOUSA E CASTRO COMMITTEE FOR ELIMINATION OF
FORMER POLITICAL POLICE AND
HANDLES SUPPORT SERVICES FOR RC)

CPT ANTONIO ALVES MARQUES ARMY REP (SUPERVISES INVESTIGATION
JUNIOR OF NOV 25 COUP ATMMPT)

GEN ANIBAL JOSE COENTRO DE AIR FORCE REP
PINHO FREIRE
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LTC JOSE MANUEL DA COSTA AIR FORCE REP
NEVES

MAJ JOSE BERNARDINO DO AIR FORCE REP
CANTO E CASTRO

CDR MANUEL BEIRAO MARTINS NAVY REP

GUERREIRO

CDR VASCO ALMEIDA E COSTA NAVY REP (MINISTER OF INTERNAL
ADMINISTRATION)

CDR VITOR MANUEL CRESPO NAVY REP (MINISTER FOR COOPERATION)

2. AD HOC AND IRREGULAR PROCEDURE WHICH IN THE PAST
CHARACTERIZED THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE RC
WAS ONCE AGAIN IN EVIDENCE. NEW NAVY MEMBERS WERE SIMPLY
NAMED BY RC RATHER THAN ELECTED BY NAVY.

3. ALTHOUGH RC RLE DECLINED FOLLOWING
ELECTIONS AND SUBSEQUENT AFM FRACTURE, IT STILL HAS
IMPORTANT POLITICAL POWER WHEN MILITARY ARE UNITED.
CURRENT POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF RC IS AS FOLLOWS:

-- COMMUNIST-LINING: CDR MARTINS GURERREIRO

--NON-COMMUNIST LEFT (FAVORING CONTINUED IMPORTANT
POLITICAL ROLE FOR MILITARY) PRES COSTA GOMES; MAJ MELO
ANTUNES; CDR VITOR CRESPO; MAJ VITOR ALVES (MORE MODERATE THAN
ANTUNES BUT TENDS TO GO ALONG WITH HIM BECAUSE OF FREINDSHIP);
CHARAIS; PEZARAT CORREIA; VASCO LOURENCO;
SOUSA E CASTRO.

--"OPERATIONALS" (FAVORING REDUCED POLITICAL ROLE FOR
MMILITARY); PM AZEVEDO; GEN EANES; ADM SOUTO CRUZ; GEN MORAIS DA
SILVA; BG PIRES VELOSO; GEN PINHO FREIRE; MAJ CANTO E CASTRO; CDR
ALMEIDA E COSTA; CPT MARQUES JUNIOR; LTC COSTA NEVES.

4. THE ABOVE BREAKDOWN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. MANY OF THESE
OFFICERS LACK POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND DO NOT HAVE A CLEARLY
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FIXED IDEOLOGICAL POSITION. THEY TEND TO SHIP AROUND
DEPENDING ON THE ISSUE. PERSONAL FRIENDSHIPS ALSO PLAY AN
IMPORTANT ROLE IN A GROUP COMING FROM A TINY PROFESSIONAL
OFFICER CORPS IN WHICH EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYBODY ELSE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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